



TO: Members of Hospital Advisory Group
FROM: Dave Wintz
Compliance and Technical Assistance Program
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DATE: March 13, 2000
RE: February 24, 2000 Hospital Advisory Group Meeting Summary

Next meeting: Thursday, May 18, 2000 1:00 p. m.
IDEM Shadeland Offices - 2525 N Shadeland
Conference Room D - second floor

February 24, 2000 Meeting Summary

1. Our first presentation was from Marita O'Neill-Maloley and Sue Buuck from Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne. They gave an excellent presentation of their conversion from ethylene oxide (ETO) to hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) sterilization system for equipment. The risks associated with ETO and other factors were part of the decision-making process. The payback on their conversion was less than five years. H₂O₂ also takes much less time to sterilize - 45 minutes compared to 21-23 hours with ETO. Thanks to Marita and Sue for an excellent presentation.
2. Next, we had a presentation from Tom McCarthy, Ogden Martin Systems, and Tom Neltner, Improving Kids' Environment. Tom McCarthy went through Ogden Martin's permit and what is happening with the solid waste portion appeal. Tom also talked about the permit conditions that exist for incinerating medical waste. Ogden Martin has strict mercury requirements. Each customer of Ogden Martin must certify that there will be no mercury in loads that go to the Ogden Martin facility. If Ogden tests a load and finds mercury, the hospital will get the load back and will have to deal with both the regulated medical waste (RMW) and the hazardous waste that is created when mercury contaminates a load of RMW. Tom Neltner of IKE discussed mercury in the environment and why hospitals should make a commitment to eliminating it from their facilities. Tom wants to work with hospitals that make a commitment to the Health Care Without Harm pledge of becoming a mercury-free facility. Thanks to Tom McCarthy and Tom Neltner for

their presentations.

3. Next, we had a presentation from Gary Urbanowicz from Doucet and Mainka on waste management plans. Gary talked about the requirements of the incinerator rule and also stated that all hospitals should have waste management plans. Each plan should be site specific because each facility is different. What works at one hospital may not work at another. Gary discussed solid waste issues in addition to hazardous waste issues such as mercury. Thanks to Gary for his presentation.

NOTE: I have presentation materials from each speakers. Please let me know if you did not get any of the handouts. I can mail you a copy.